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FOOTBALL REWIND
HALEY POUNDS
JAZZMIN BABERS
AND MORE...

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Murray Slides Into
Starting Role



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A large, detailed bronze statue of a jockey riding a horse. The jockey is wearing a helmet with goggles and a racing suit. The horse's head is in the foreground, featuring a star on its forehead. A red and white flag is visible in the background.

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On the Cover: Kyler Murray wins starting QB role. Photo by Rob Havens '88.

Howdy Ags!

What a rollercoaster football season we have experienced the last few weeks! After a strong start and exciting wins against Arkansas and Mississippi State, the Aggies' offense derailed and the Ags dropped two big games. With a conference title out of reach and any hope of the College Football Playoff berth gone, it was time to see what our team would do. Coach Sumlin opened up the quarterback competition, and Kyler Murray took advantage and earned an opportunity to start. The true freshman ignited the offense and played with great maturity in the South Carolina game. His ability to run and create plays brings back memories of a young guy who burst onto the scene a couple of years back and wore a No. 2 jersey. Let's hope that Kyler can continue to have the kind of success he had.

Inside this issue you will find our rewind section of the first eight games of the football season, along with our favorite shots of the game. We also had the opportunity to sit down with A&M soccer player, Haley Pounds, and volleyball player, Jazzmin Babers. You will enjoy finding out more about these young ladies in our student-athlete features.

Fall is upon us and Aggie basketball is about to get going. Inside you'll see some of the new faces on our men's team. When I went to cover the Maroon & White game, I was very impressed with their athletic ability and the depth that Coach Kennedy and his staff have built. The team was picked by SEC media to finish third in the conference. There should be a lot of excitement at Reed Arena this season.

My final thought as we wrap up this issue is that we are really blessed to be playing in the SEC. Our coaches in every sport have done a great job recruiting and developing student-athletes to compete in the best conference in the country. I hope we don't take for granted the hard work and dedication they put in every day to make Texas A&M and the SEC the best!

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88





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snapshot





midnight yell...

The new Kyle Field was reopened on Friday, September 11, 2015 just before midnight. Some 50,000 fans filled all three decks donning red, white, and blue t-shirts on the anniversary of one of the most tragic days in American history. The 12th Man celebrated the opening of the \$485 million renovated stadium while at the same time remembering those that lost their lives on 9-11-01.

Photo by Benjamin Knox '90.





heads above the rest...

Haley Pounds propels this header through the Florida Atlantic defense while airborne in early season action. This talented sophomore leads the team in goals scored with eleven during the regular season. The Aggies defeated the Owls 2-0.

Photo by Sarah Pyatt '14.

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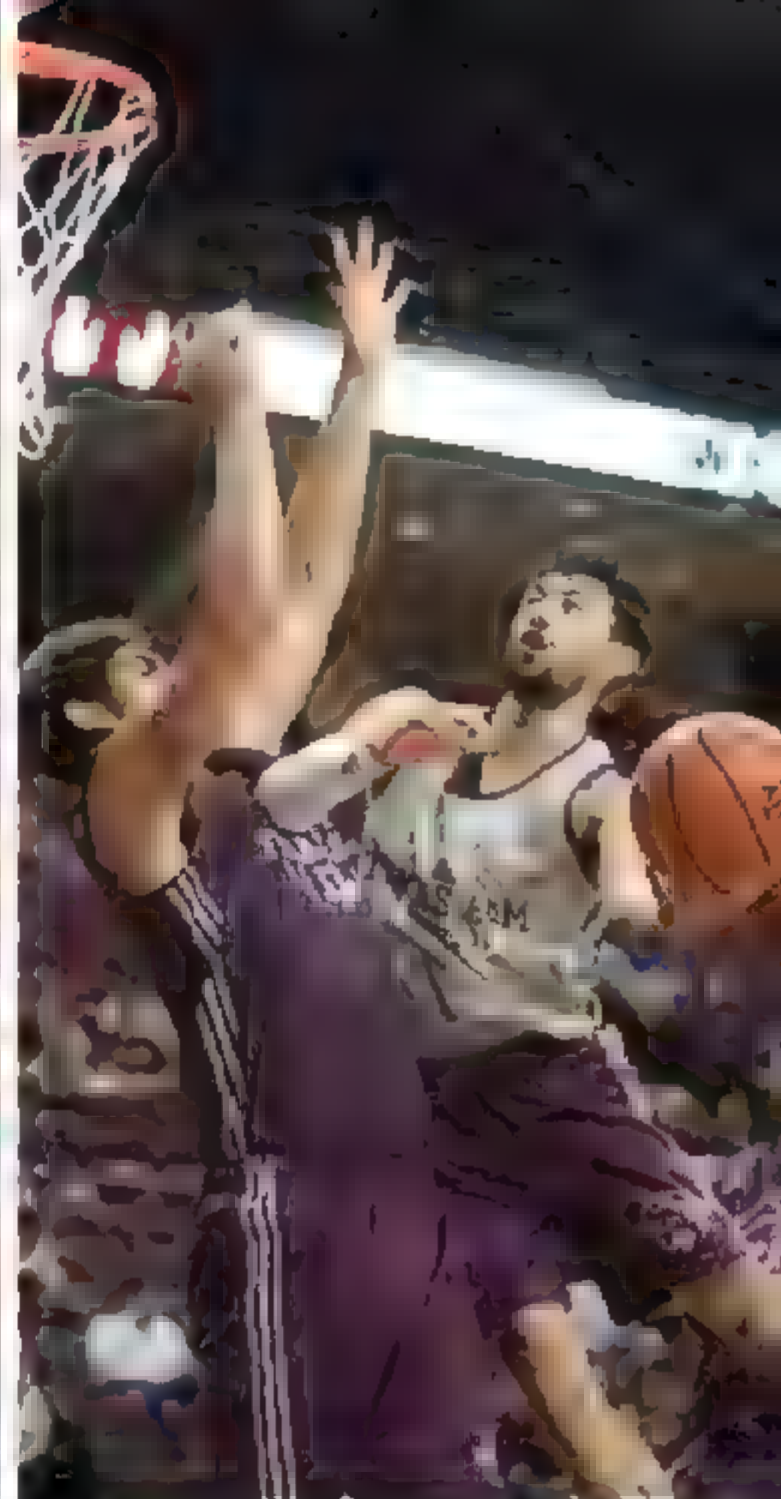
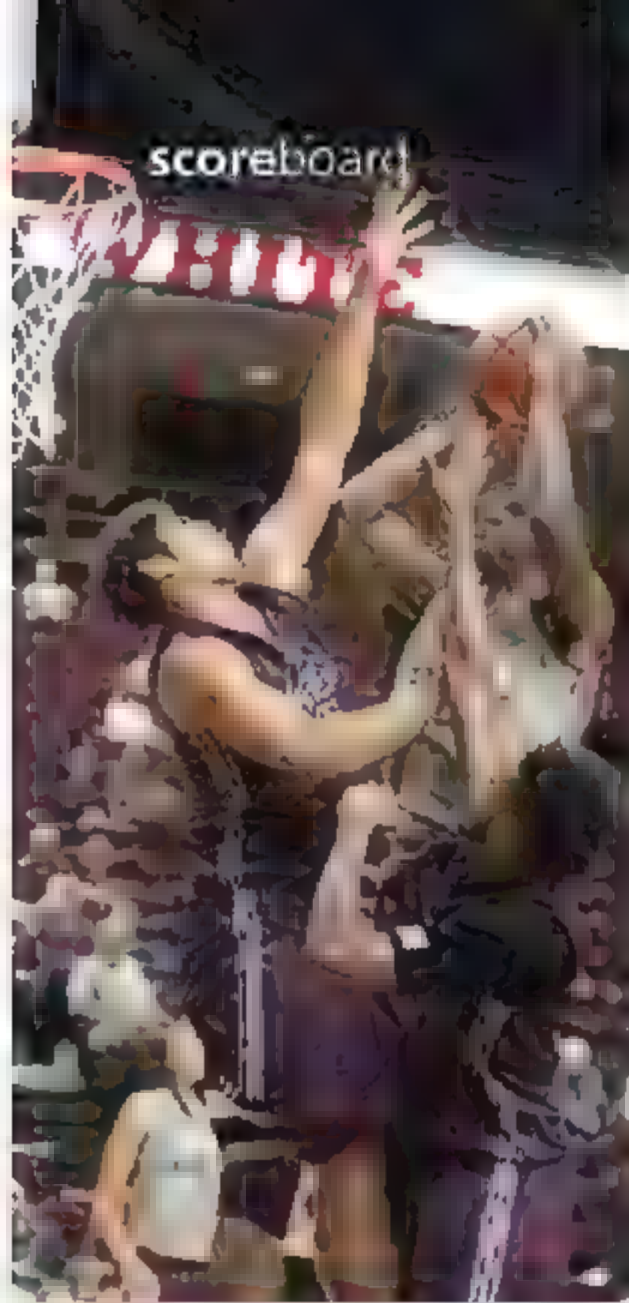
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[men's basketball] The Aggie men's basketball team is preparing for the upcoming season, and the 12th Man got to see all the new faces on the team as they played in the annual Maroon and White scrimmage at Reed Arena. Danuel House led all scorers with 15 points as the teams played a 24-minute game. DJ Hogg, Admon Gilder, and Tyler Davis looked right at home as they saw their first minutes on the Aggies' home court. The team will be deeper and more athletic, and the SEC media picked the Aggies to finish third in the conference this season.

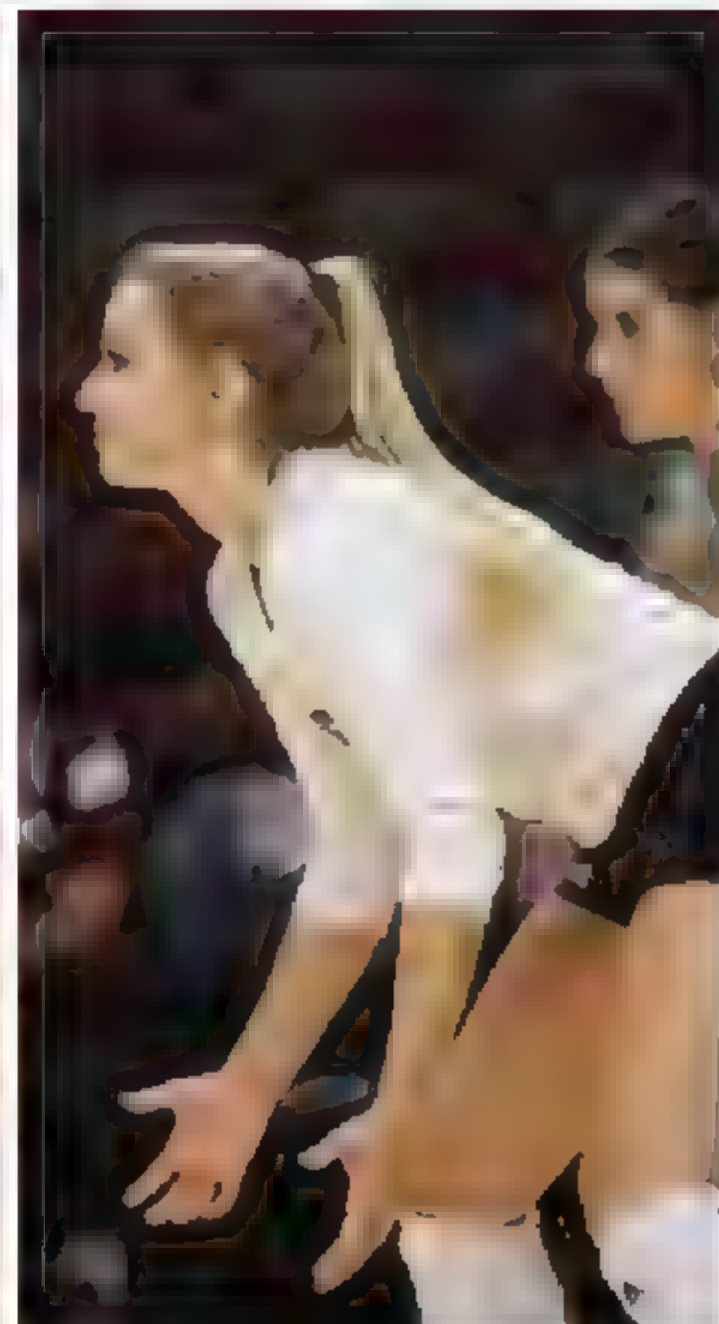
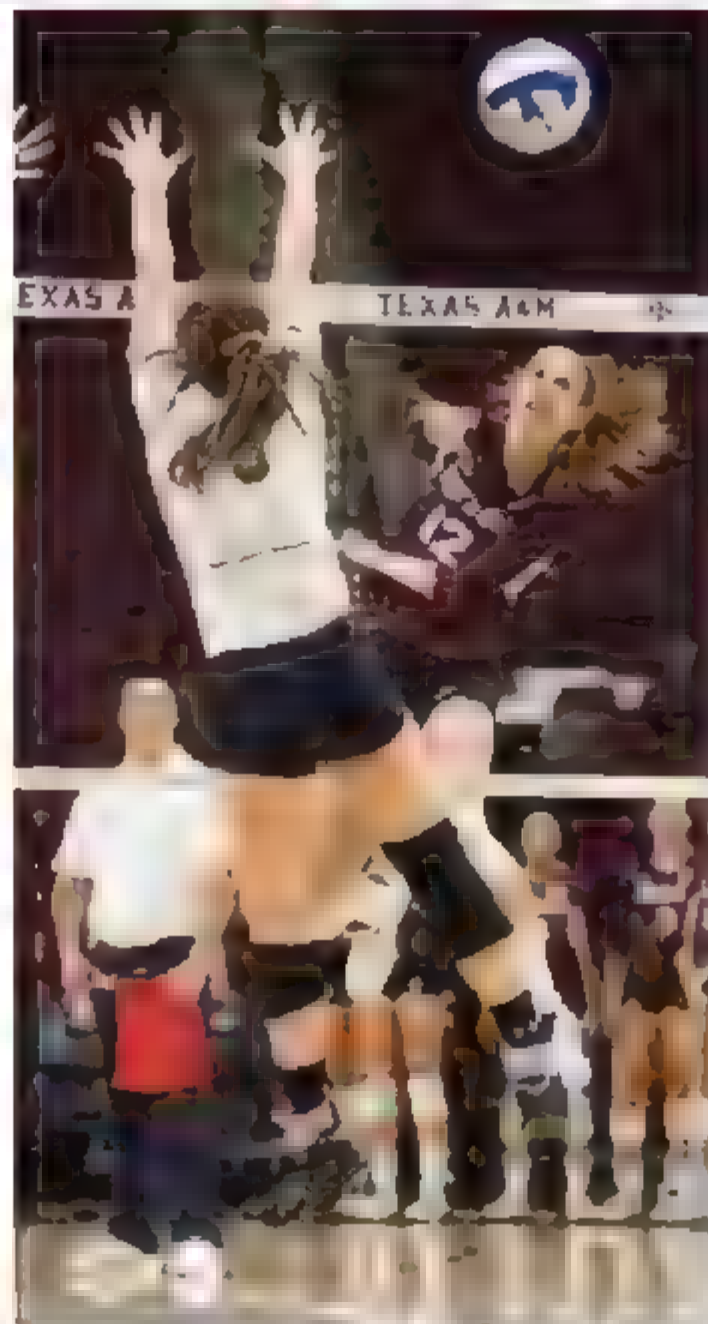
[track & field] The SEC Cross Country Championships were held on Friday, October 30 on the Dale Watts course here in College Station. The men recorded their best finish at the SEC Championships, scoring 98 points—good for second place. The Aggie women placed ninth, and Karis Jochen, who has had a stellar season so far, came in fifth place for the Ags.





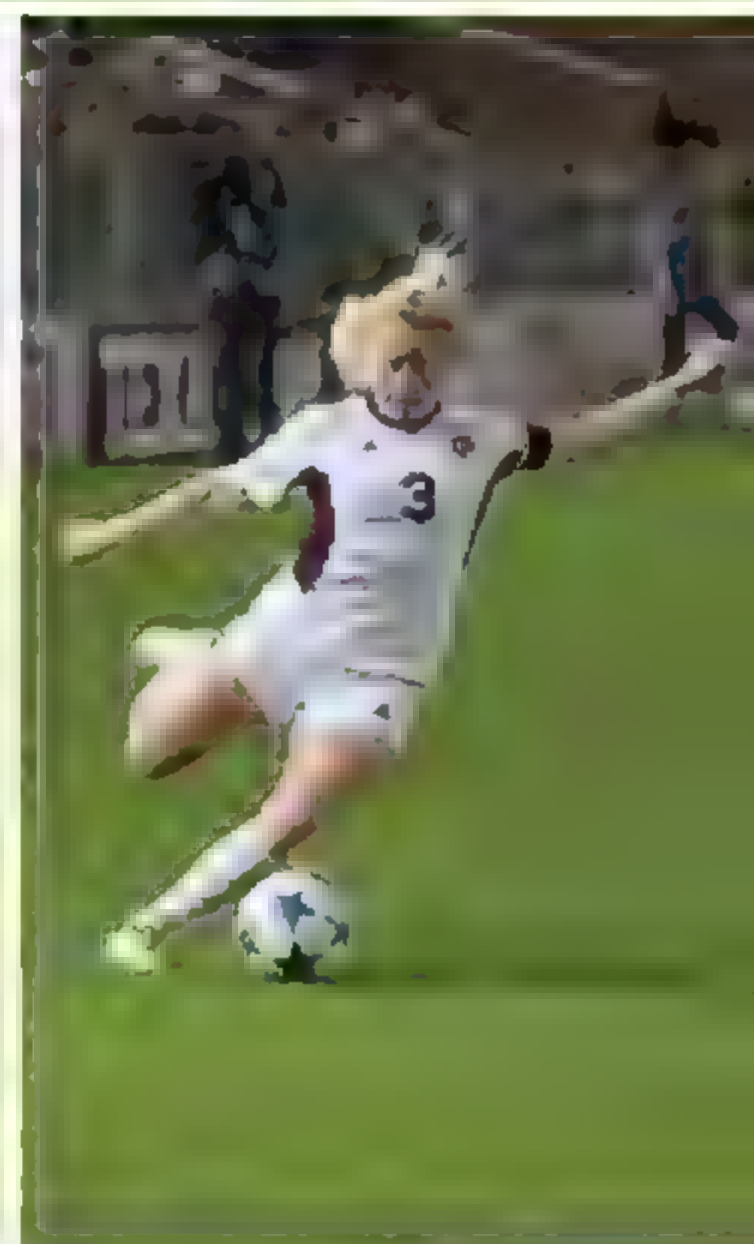
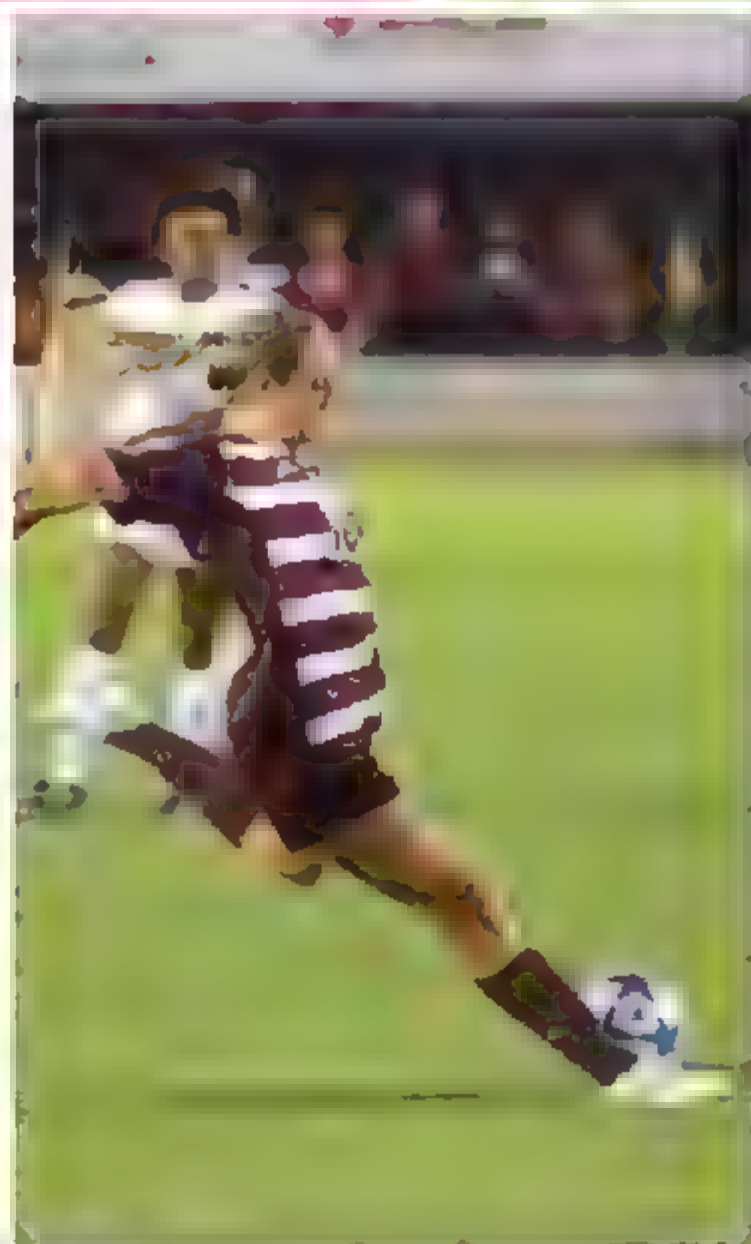
[equestrian] The Aggie Equestrian team has gotten off to a great start in 2015. They defeated three top ten teams, including the defending champion, South Carolina. The women are now 3-1 on the season. The Ags entered their contest against USC ranked #6 in the country and are sure to move up after defeating the #4 Gamecocks.

[volleyball] Coach Corbelli's ladies are posting big wins as they finish the first half of the SEC schedule with a 7-2 record, including a big win over conference leader Kentucky. The ladies have a 5-match winning streak going and are working hard to bring home an SEC Volleyball Championship. The homestretch will be tough as the Ags face five of the top teams in the conference in their final nine matches.





[soccer] Coach G's Aggie Soccer Team became spoilers on the final night of the regular season as they kept the Missouri Tigers from a share of the regular season title by playing them to a 1-1 draw. The Aggies finished the regular season 13-5-1 with a 6-4-1 conference record. They now turn their focus to the postseason, with their eyes on another SEC tourney title and another shot at the College Cup. This team has the talent to make a run, and expectations are still high.





HALEY POUNDS

CARRIES ON THE AGGIE LEGACY

When did you start playing soccer?

I started playing when I was five years old, when I was in kindergarten.

Tell me about your decision to come to A&M.

Well, I grew up with an Aggie family. My dad went here and my grandfather went here, so I went to a lot of soccer games and football games. I think I went to my first football game when I was six months old. *(Laughs)* I had been around A&M a lot. When recruiting started to get bigger during my freshman

year in high school, I knew A&M was where I wanted to go. I did visit about eight other schools, but when it came down to it, I felt most comfortable here. I had grown up around here and it made sense for me.

Tell me about your experience last year going all the way to the College Cup.

It was an incredible freshman year, coming in and doing so well. Me, personally, I didn't get to play as much as I wanted to, and I wasn't as successful as I hoped to be. That was kind of hard, but the nine seniors we had really taught me a lot,



and it was a really cool freshman year. It really set my standards high for my next three years.

This has been an amazing year for you. Coach G needed someone to step up after losing all those seniors. What were your goals at the beginning of the year and how has this season developed for you?

Yeah. So, after the fall, I went home after Christmas break and I was like ok this spring I'm gonna have to work really hard and I thought about my goals. I'm a forward I'm need to score, I had only scored once last year. I really need to focus on putting shots away. Fitness was like a big thing, I want to be the fittest person on this team. I want to be the most hard working person. The spring was like a really good time for me to set those goals and work on the things that I needed to work on. I felt really confident coming into this season, like I had already put in the work over the spring and summer.

For a while there, you were getting a goal or an assist every game. Were you just in a zone?

Yeah, it was exciting. It was kind of surreal because I had been working and praying for this for a while, and to kind of see that payoff was really awesome. But I have really good teammates putting me in good positions, too.

You're getting to the end of conference play. What are your goals as a team?

Our goal is to win out these last four conference games. It's been kind of hard on the road this season. If we can win out, I think it will give us a lot of momentum heading into the SEC Tournament and for post-season play.

What's it been like on the road?

It's been a lot different. We don't get nearly as many fans, and it's kind of quiet during warm ups. We're like, "Where are all the people?" There's just something about playing here that's really special. Somehow, we're going to have to find a new mentality when we play away, just because we don't have our fans there, we still have to work hard to try to get more opportunities.



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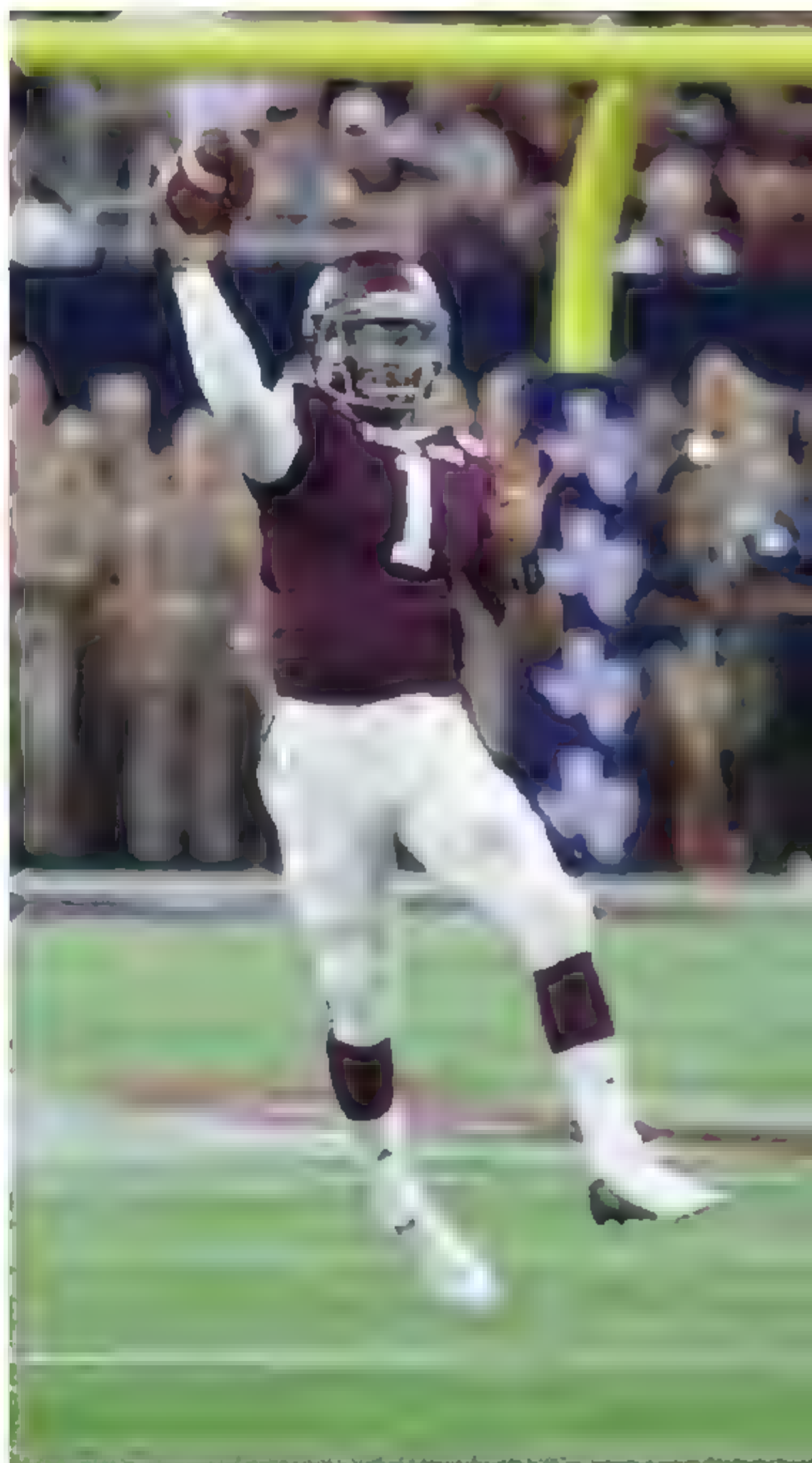


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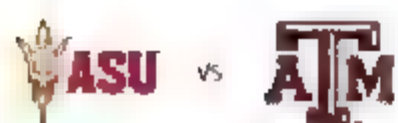
FOOTBALL REWIND 2015

PHOTO COURTESY OF B. MININOX '98

[GAME 1: **A&M 38**, ARIZONA STATE 17]

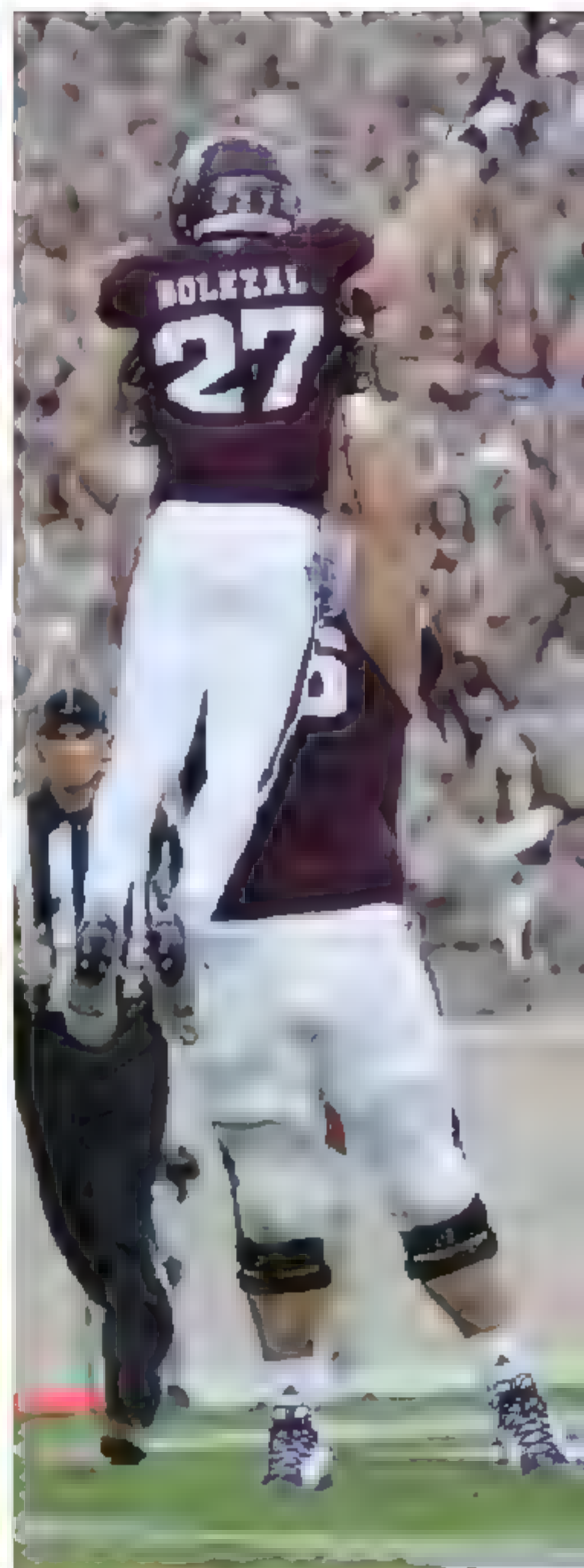
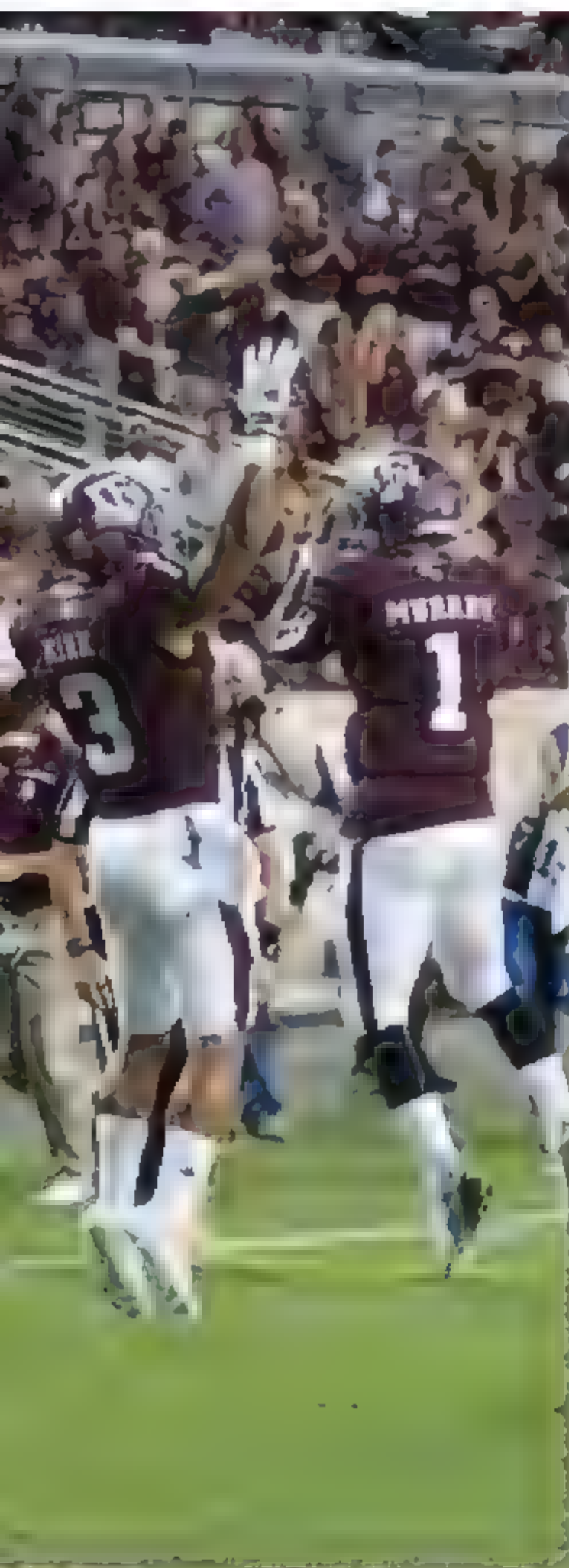


▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



The much-awaited season opener did not disappoint as the unranked Aggies whipped the No. 15 Arizona St. Sun Devils 38-17. Kyle Allen and Christian Kirk were facing their hometown team, and both were instrumental in the win. Kirk scored on a 79-yard punt return and a 66-yard reception. The game was also the first time for fans to see Kyler Murray in action. The Texas high school phenom created an instant spark by entering the game and completing four passes for 49 yards and racing through and around the ASU defense for another 69 yards. Kyle Allen returned to the game and showed great leadership and poise as he drove the offense down the field for three fourth-quarter touchdowns. The 12th Man got their first opportunity to see the new John Chavis defense. Daeshon Hall and Myles Garrett combined for six quarterback sacks, and the defense allowed only 291 yards of total offense to the Sun Devils.

[GAME 2: **A&M 56**, BALL STATE 23]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME

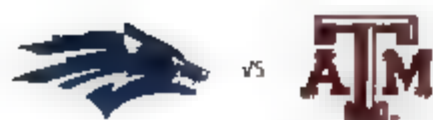


The second game of the season found the Aggies taking on the Cardinals of Ball State in the inaugural contest of the newly redeveloped Kyle Field. In front of a sold out crowd, the Ags rolled to a 56-23 win over the Mid-American Conference foe. The offense scored early and often under the leadership of Kyle Allen, who threw three touchdown passes in limited playing time. Kyler Murray threw the first touchdown of his young career at A&M, which was a ten-yard pass to Christian Kirk. Coach Sumlin was able to give just about everyone some playing time, and several players made the most out of their opportunity. Brice Dolezal rushed for 83 yards on seventeen carries, including a long 33-yard touchdown run that sent his teammates into a frenzy of excitement. Coach Sumlin commented after the game about the great atmosphere, "It's hard to make Kyle Field better, but we did the impossible...the noise is awesome!"

[GAME 3: **A&M 44**, NEVADA 27]

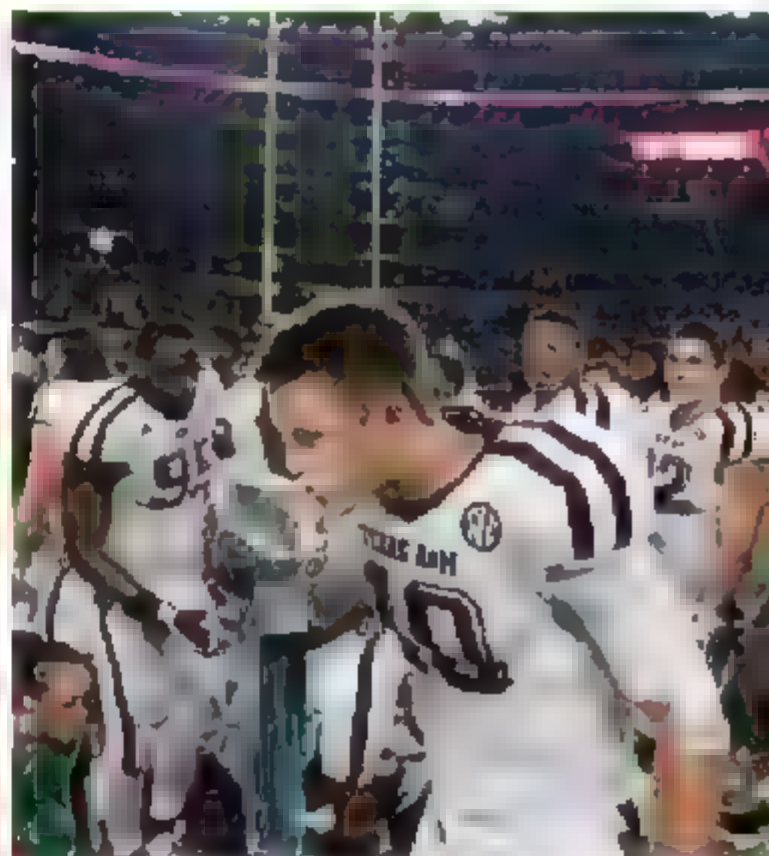
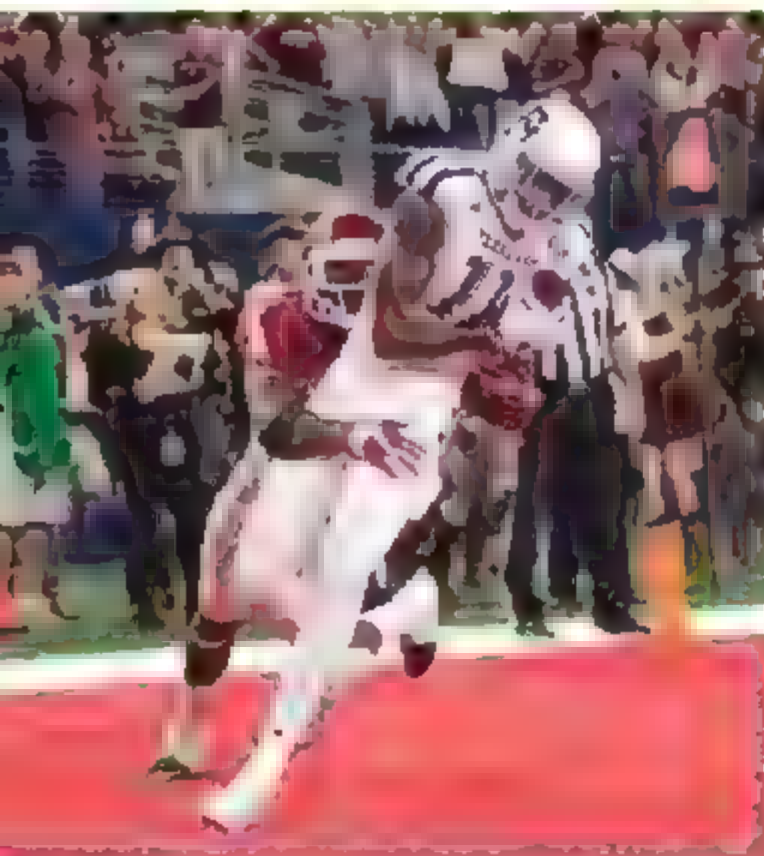


▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



The Aggies hosted former special teams coach, Brian Polian, and the Nevada Wolf Pack in game three of the season. Kyle Allen had an outstanding outing, throwing four touchdowns and adding another on the ground. Josh Reynolds made the most of his opportunities, catching two touchdown passes in the contest. John Chavis's defense played an impressive game. Myles Garrett recorded 3.5 sacks and four tackles for losses after having his wisdom teeth taken out during the week. He literally gave all he could give, as Coach Price had to hold him up as the Ags sawed 'em off after the conclusion of the game. Christian Kirk had a career high 120 yards on six catches, and Tra Carson was a workhorse, rolling up 137 yards on twenty two carries. Taylor Bertolet remained perfect on the year, adding three field goals (32, 21, 37) to Texas A&M's tally.

[GAME 4: **A&M 28**, ARKANSAS 21]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



vs



Texas A&M was riding a three-game winning streak when they drove into Arlington to face a struggling Razorback team. Bielema's offense kept the ball away from Sam in's high-powered offense and, in the process, accumulated 457 total yards, including 232 on the ground. Trailing 21-13 late in the game, things looked bleak for the Aggies. But with just over four minutes in regulation, Kyle Allen led the Aggies on an 85-yard touchdown drive. The highlight of the drive was a 63-yard catch and run by Josh Reynolds to the Razorback seven-yard line. Three plays later, Tra Carson bulldozed into the end zone, bringing the Ags within one point. Allen and Reynolds connected again on the two-point conversion, tying up the game and giving the Aggies new life. The Aggies finally triumphed in overtime when Allen threw a 20-yard bullet to Kirk to give the Ags the lead. The Aggie defense did its job, shutting down the Hogs on their final series. The team rushed the field in celebration.

[GAME 5: **A&M 30**, MISSISSIPPI STATE 17]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



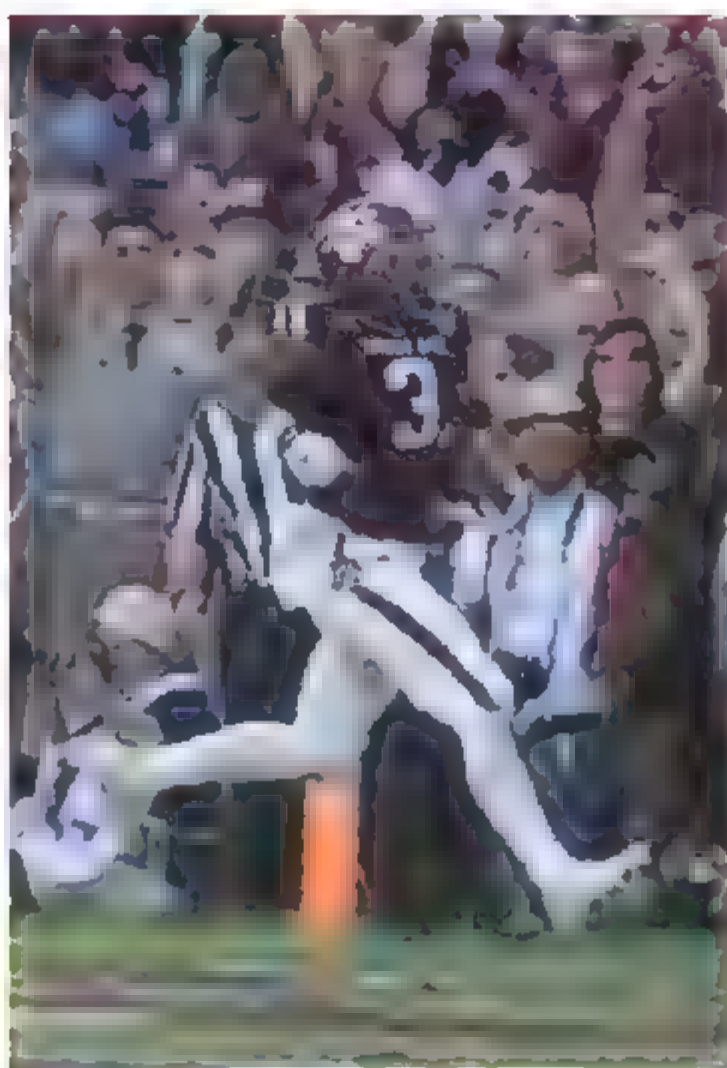
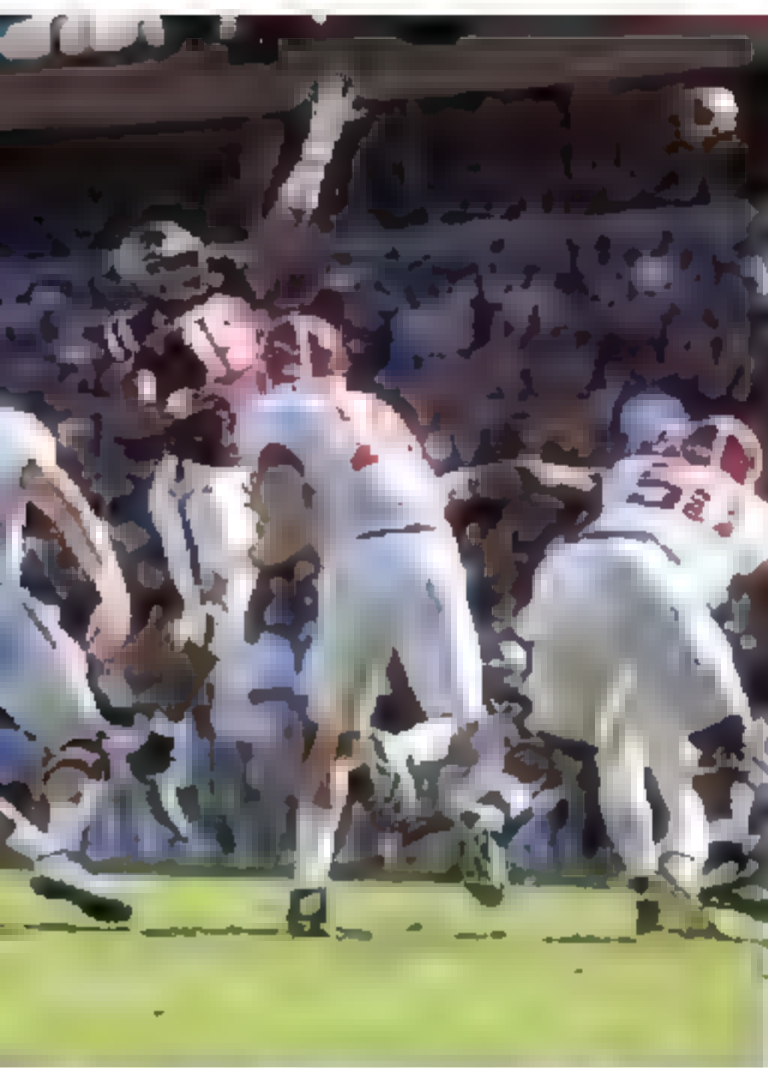
vs



In game five, the Aggies faced dual threat quarterback Dak Prescott. Ricky Sea s-Jones and Damion Ratley both collected touchdown passes in the first quarter, giving the Ags a 14-3 lead after one. Taylor Bertolet extended the lead with a career long, 55-yard field goal in the second stanza. Tra Carson finished off an impressive 64-yard drive with a one-yard run to give the Aggies a 24-10 lead at half. Myles Garrett had seven tackles (two for loss) and a sack, forced a fumble, and batted down a pass. Donovan Wilson had a huge play on the first drive of the second half. After Prescott completed a 17-yard pass, Wilson forced a fumble and recovered it, stalling the Bulldogs' drive. On their next possession, they drove the ball seventy-two yards before Myles Garrett forced a fumble that was recovered by Cunningham at our own three-yard line. Taylor Bertolet added two more field goals in the second half, giving the Aggies a total of thirty points and a thirteen-point victory.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BENJAMIN KNOX '90

[GAME 6: **ALABAMA 41**, A&M 23]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME

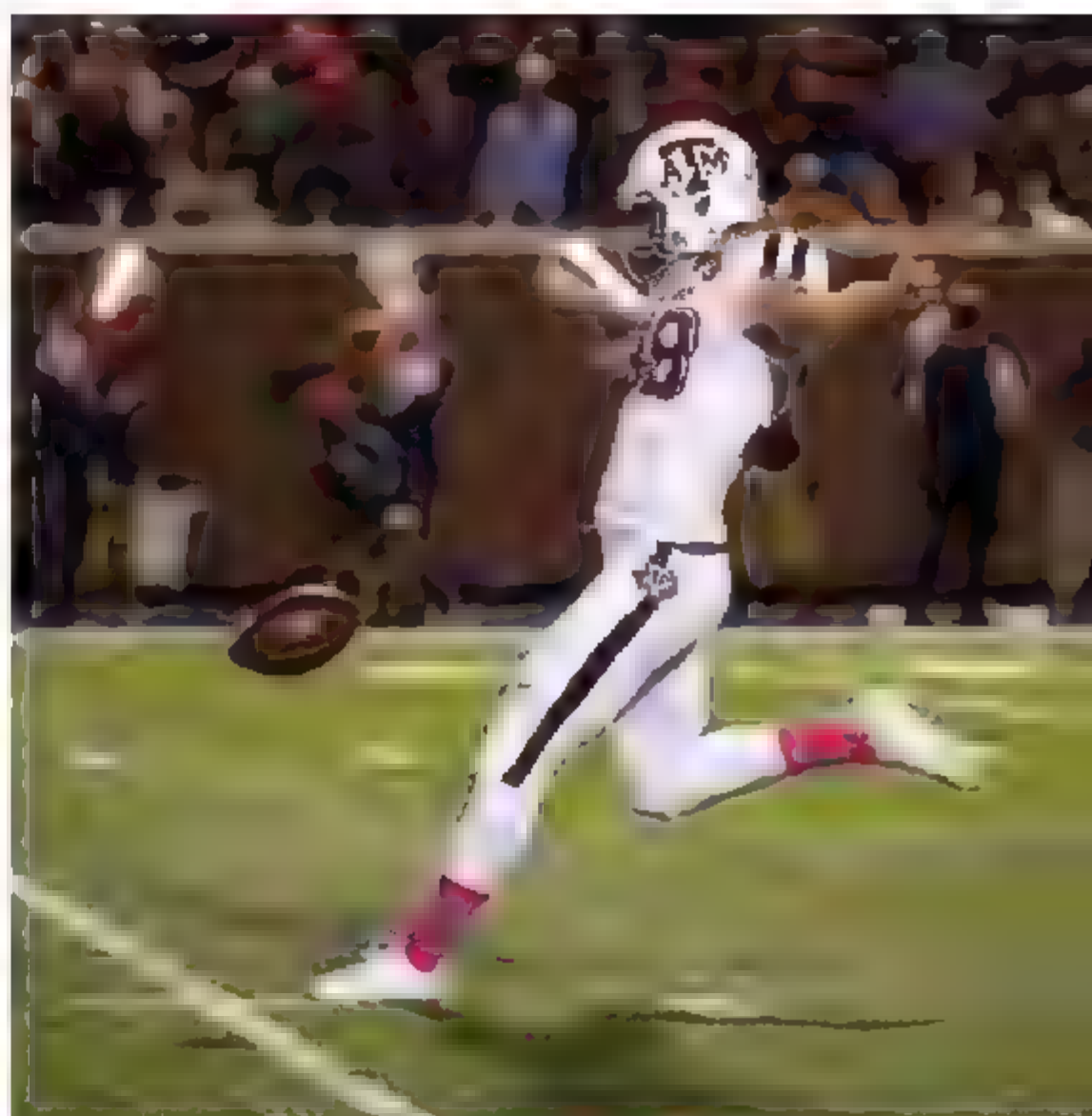


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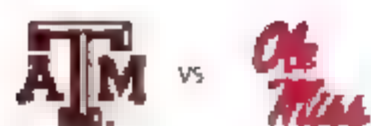


The Aggies entered the seventh week of the season riding high on a five-game winning streak. With the benefit of a bye the week before and a hostile home crowd, the ninth-ranked Ags welcomed the No. 10 Alabama Crimson Tide to Kyle Field. Unfortunately, it was not to be as the team fell to the talented Alabama team by the score of 41-23. Kyle Allen threw three pick-sixes in the game, creating a deficit that the Aggies could not overcome. Taylor Bertolet was a bright spot on the team; the senior kicked 54- and 52-yard field goals in the first half. The Aggie defense played an inspired game and was able to hold the powerful Bama team to only twenty points in the game. They had fifteen tackles for loss and forced Alabama to punt nine times. Christian Kirk returned a punt 68 yards for a touchdown, but the offense was only able to score one touchdown during the game by Ricky Seals-Jones.

[GAME 7: OLE MISS 23, A&M 3]

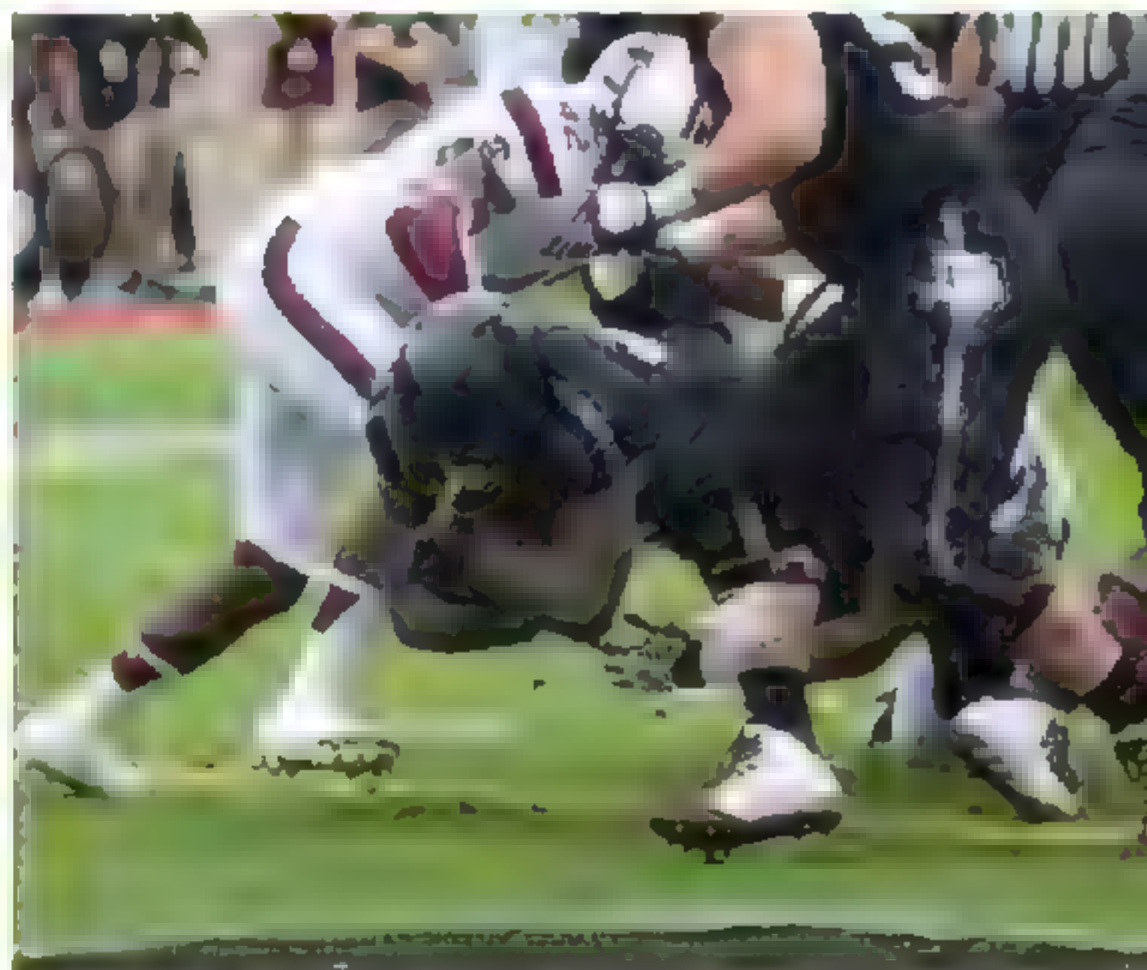
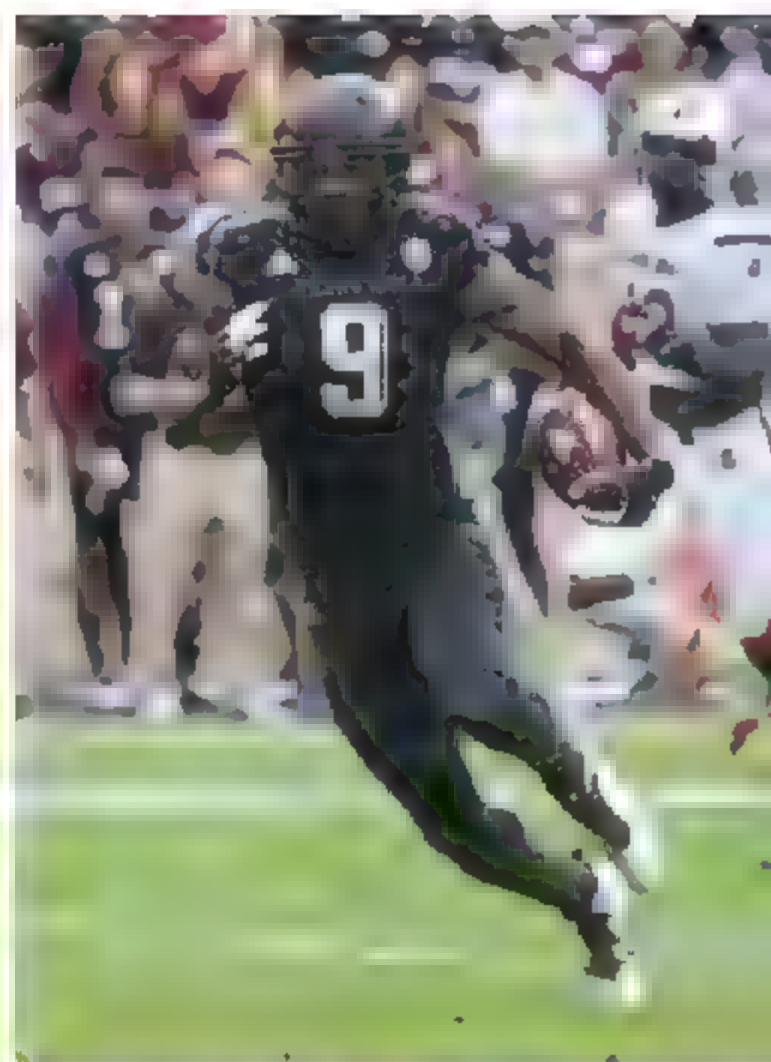


▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



After a tough loss to Alabama, Coach Sumlin reminded his team that all of their goals were still attainable and a win versus Ole Miss could get them back on track. The Ags' offense, however, could never get things going as Kyle Allen completed only two ve passes for eighty-eight yards. The stingy Ole Miss defense kept the Aggies out of the end zone, and the team settled for a 44-yard field goal by Bertolet as its only score. Drew Kaser had a stellar night, averaging 47.9 yards on a career-high ten punts. The defense, led by Armani Watts with twenty tackles, once again played well enough to win. But after three-plus quarters of ineffectiveness, Allen was taken out of the game and replaced by Jake Hubenak. Ricky Seals Jones led the receiving corps with seventy five yards on three receptions. Myles Garrett made a Heisman highlight reel by getting his first interception, making seven tackles, forcing a fumble, and batting down a pass.

[GAME 8: **A&M 35**, SOUTH CAROLINA 28]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



After two dismal offensive performances and the obvious issues at quarterback, Coach Sumlin announced that he was opening up the competition at quarterback and would announce the new starter the day before the game. Dual threat, true freshman Kyler Murray got the call and responded accordingly. He rushed for 156 yards on twenty carries and passed for another 223 yards. Murray threw a touchdown pass to Josh Reynolds and scored another one on the ground. Tra Carson was once again a pivotal part of the running game, gaining 122 yards on twenty two carries. Ricky Seals-Jones had another great game, picking and carrying defenders all over the field as he caught six passes for 88 yards, including a 25 yard reception. Donovan Wilson had two huge interceptions, including a 60-yard pick six and the final turnover to clinch the win. Myles Garrett had another stellar game, racking up seven tackles, a sack, two tackles for loss, and a forced fumble.

Q&A WITH JAZZMIN



BABERS

I read you didn't start playing volleyball until high school. Is that correct?

Yes, I started volleyball my freshman year of high school. It was the first time I touched a ball. I started getting recruited toward the end of my sophomore year, but I didn't really have a school that I wanted to go to because I moved around so much when I was growing up. So, I just started doing random visits here and there. A&M said they wanted me to visit, but I didn't think that I wanted to come here at all. I popped in this one time on my way home to Waco and I just fell in love with the school, the coaches, the teammates, and the atmosphere.

How did you decide to go from soccer to volleyball?

My mom was a college volleyball player; she played at the University of Hawaii. I played soccer growing up my whole life, and when I entered high school, my mom said, "Hey, why don't you try out volleyball?" So I played volleyball and soccer my freshman and sophomore years and then decided to stick with volleyball because I could use my height for something good. *(Laughing)*

You played with Angela Lowak before coming to A&M, correct?

I did. I played with her on Austin Juniors during my junior year, and senior year we got to play together. She committed to A&M before I did, and she kind of encouraged me to commit after I told her I loved the school.

So she helped in the recruiting process?

She did, yeah, she did. *(Laughing)*

What has your experience been like these last three years?

I've loved it! It's honestly the best school ever. Everyone's so friendly. I've grown as a volleyball player and as an athlete, and academically, it's the perfect fit. I love it so much.

With your dad being a football coach, you travelled all over?

I loved moving a lot growing up. It was different compared to everyone else's childhood. It gave me new experiences and a lot of new opportunities, and I met a lot of new people. It was great; I loved it.

Tell me about the season so far?

We're doing pretty well, I think. We did lose Angela at the very beginning, and we thought that would hurt our team a lot. But she's still been there giving us all that she can, and a lot of people are stepping up. We are just excited to be playing in the SEC.

Did you feel personally that you needed to pick up the slack after she went out with the injury?

I think so, especially being the older one on the team. The coaches and my teammates look to me a little bit more with her being out, I think. They ask a little bit more of me.

What is your favorite: a kill, a block, or a dig?

I'm gonna go with blocking. *(Laughs)* I really like blocking, it really gets your team pumped. I feel like people get more pumped from a block than a kill.

What has been your favorite place to go so far?

Our pre-season travel is a lot more fun because we get more free time. We've gone to California the past two years, and that's always been a lot of fun.

Any place you're looking forward to travelling to coming up?

I always look forward to travelling to Kentucky because my family lives in Ohio and they get to come watch me play.

I heard your dad helped save someone in a car accident? How did you find out about that?

I saw an article online, or maybe it popped up on Facebook. I called my dad and said, "Hey, what's going on? Did you save someone?" He said, "Oh yeah, I was just helping out. This woman was in an accident, so the trainer and I pulled her out of the car and I went back and got her stuff."

Does he get to see you play at all?

Yes, he watches online and on the SEC Network, which is really great. He came down last year and surprised me. He didn't even tell me; he just knocked on my door. He got to see me play for the first time at Reed Arena in person.

How's this year's team chemistry?

This is the closest team I've ever been on. Every year it just gets tighter and tighter. We're great friends on and off the court. It's really good.

What's your favorite thing about being an Aggie?

I love the traditions and the really friendly people!

Did you know?

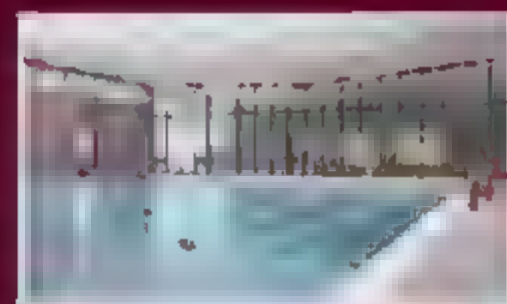
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Racquetball Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Have you ever walked through the Rec and seen students competing with each other on the racquetball courts and wanted to join in? According to Corey Smith, the president of this year's Texas A&M Racquetball Club, there is an open invitation for you to come out and play. "We are always accepting members, and play continues year-round. If you're interested in joining, you are welcome to come play with us."

Smith fell in love with the sport and wanted to be a part of it and get involved

in the leadership of the club. The team consists of a core group of about twenty to thirty players, and the top eight guys and girls travel to compete against other schools in the Southern Collegiate Racquetball Conference. The team recently placed second in their first regional event. They hope to take back the top ranking in their next regional this November.

The team travels to the Collegiate Nationals in Arizona in the spring. Last year they placed eleventh overall. Combined with the team from UT, the players from Texas outscored those from every other state, and together they won the Collegiate Cup!

Corey told AI that his greatest experience as club president is seeing the growth of his players. "We have people who have never played competitive racquetball before, and now they are playing and winning at the highest level. To be



able to see and be a part of that, and to represent A&M in the sport I love, is the highest honor."

The club meets every Monday and Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Rec Center to play racquetball, stay healthy, and have fun. They accept students of all backgrounds and skill levels, from the highly skilled to those who have just recently picked up a racquet and are eager to play and compete. The club is student-run, and their main fundraiser is the Aggieland Classic, which is held each semester and draws hundreds of the best players around to compete.



Taekwondo Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

With the expansion of the Student Recreation Center, it's obvious that Texas A&M understands that today's students place a high priority on physical fitness. Students are staying more active in order to prepare their bodies and minds for the strenuous schedules Aggies often have. The Texas A&M Taekwondo Team offers its members a way to stay physically fit, improve their mental toughness, and compete at a high level.

We asked the team's vice president, Ashleigh Parks, to tell us more about the club. Parks told us there are two aspects of the organization: club and competition team. The club currently consists of forty members, twenty-four of whom are on the competition squad

that travels and competes locally and nationally to represent A&M. This year's team has already competed at the 35th Annual Fort Worth International Championships, where they earned eight gold, one silver, and three bronze medals. Coming up, the team will participate in the 2015 Southwest Conference Fight Offs, which are being hosted by the University of Texas's taekwondo team on November 21st.

If you are interested in learning more about the Taekwondo Team, they will be hosting their own tournament at the Rec Center, courts 5 and 7, on February 27, 2016. The team will also travel to Boulder, Colorado this April to compete against other taekwondo teams at the National Collegiate Taekwondo



Championships.

Parks told AI that she was a ten-year veteran of the sport before coming to A&M. When she saw the club at the MSC Open House, she immediately decided to join. Ashleigh said, "Taekwondo has taught me respect, perseverance, integrity, and indomitable spirit, and these are lessons that continue to guide me in all aspects of my life."

When asked what her favorite thing is about being on the team, Ashleigh replied, "This team is family. Everyone is so welcoming and friendly. It is amazing how we can go from kicking each other in the head at practice to being close friends who work out, study, volunteer, and hang out together outside of practice."



Visit recsports.tamu.edu for more info about Texas A&M Sport Clubs.



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